

The ruling on what one must perform when finding wetness upon awakening¹

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Question

If a person awakes and he finds wetness upon his clothing, is it obligatory upon him to make Ghusl?

Answer

If a person awakes and he finds wetness upon his clothing then it could only be one of three situations:

1. He is certain that it is sperm and at that time it is obligatory upon him to make ghusl whether he remembers the wet dream or not.
2. That he is certain that it is not sperm and in this case it is not obligatory upon him to make ghusl but it is obligatory that he wash the place which has been affected because its ruling is that of urine.
3. He is unaware whether it is sperm or not, here there is an elaboration to be made:

Firstly: If he recalls that he had a wet dream then verily he should deem it to be sperm and he should make ghusl due to the hadeeth of Umm Salamah may Allah be pleased with her when she asked the Messenger about a woman who sees in her dream that which a man sees, is it upon her to make ghusl? He said: *"Yes if she notices a discharge"* This shows that it is obligatory upon the one who has a wet dream and sees some discharge to make ghusl.

Secondly: If he never saw anything in his dream but before he slept he was thinking about sexual relations then, (here), he should deem it to be prostatic fluid and if he never thought about sexual relations before sleeping then this is a matter of khilaaf (differing), it is said: It is obligatory upon him to make ghusl by way of precaution and it is said: It is not obligatory, which is correct because the origin is (براءة الذمة) freedom from any obligation.

¹Taken from *Fataawa Arkaani'l Islam* p. 245-246